

REMARKS

Claims 17-19, 21, 23, 32-34 and 36 are currently pending. Applicants submit that entry of the amendment is proper since it places the entire application in condition for allowance by canceling the appropriate rejected claims and amending allowable claims into independent format, including the features of the respective intervening claims.

Allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 23 is allowed. Applicants also acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 17-19, 21, 32-34 and 36 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if presented in independent form. Applicants are presenting the allowable claims 17, 18, 32, 33 and 36 into independent format, incorporating all of the allowable features therein and the features of all respective intervening claims. This should place the application in condition for allowance.

Upon consideration, entry and allowance of the above-identified application, Applicants request withdrawal of the Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief. Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner during a telephonic interview conducted on June 29, 2006, at which time the undersigned explained to the Examiner that the application would be placed into condition for allowance by accepting the allowable and allowed claims, and canceling the respective rejected claims, where

appropriate. Applicants reserve their rights to file continuation applications directed to any of the canceled claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if needed. Authorization is hereby given to refund excess payments and charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,
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